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HUMAN RIGHTS QUESTIONS: HUMAN RIGHTS QUESTIONS INCLUDING ALTERNATIVE APPROACHES FOR IMPROVING THE EFFECTIVE ENJOYMENT OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND FUNDAMENTAL FREEDOMS

Letter dated 18 April 1997 from the Permanent Representative of the Netherlands to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to draw your attention to the statement issued on 16 April 1997 by the Presidency of the European Union on Cameroon.

I should be grateful if you would have the text of this letter and its annex circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under item 114 (b) of the preliminary list.

(Signed) N. H. BIEGMAN
Permanent Representative of the
Netherlands to the United Nations

* A/52/50.

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ANNEX

[Original: English and French]

Statement issued on 16 April 1997 by the Presidency of the European Union on Cameroon

The European Union has taken note of the decision of the President of the Republic of Cameroon to organize general elections in May 1997.

The European Union expressed the desire that these elections take place in a calm and transparent manner, and in particular that every citizen should be able to vote freely and without hindrance. It considers it essential that every citizen should be able to take part in the elections in order to choose a new parliament which corresponds to the aspirations of the people, while respecting the rules of democracy.

In this connection, the European Union has noted with interest the Cameroon authorities' invitation for international observers to be sent. It has examined the possibility of responding to this invitation. It would point out that, in accordance with international practice, such observers must carry out their mission throughout the duration of the electoral process, particularly during the counting of votes and publication of results, in complete freedom and independence.